United Nations ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/3–ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 March 2018

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management

Thirteenth meeting*

Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

Fourteenth meeting*

Geneva, 28–30 May 2018
Item 16 of the provisional agenda
Programme of work for 2019–2021 and preparations for the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties

Draft programme of work for 2019–2021

Prepared by the Bureau with the support of the secretariat

Summary

By their terms of reference, the working groups under the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes are tasked with preparing a draft workplan for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention. In accordance with that mandate, at its twelfth meeting, the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management decided to develop the draft programme of work for the period 2019–2021 in a broad consultative manner, through an online survey among countries and partners and selected interviews carried out by consultants with representatives of countries and partners, also looking at suggestions brought forward by different intergovernmental bodies and as outcomes of activities under the Convention. The outcomes of these processes are presented in informal documents

* Second joint meeting of the two working groups

GE.18-04194(E)

1804194

Please recycle

ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/INF.3-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/3/2018/INF.1, INF.2 and INF.3.

Subsequently, the Working Group entrusted the Bureau, with the support of the secretariat, with consolidating and prioritizing the inputs and preparing a proposal for the future programme of work.

The proposal set out in the present document describes the background and rationale of activities, proposed future programme areas and work to be undertaken. It identifies the bodies to support the implementation of the programme of work and provides estimates of the necessary human and financial resources.

At their joint meeting, the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment are invited to discuss the structure, activities, resources, timeline and way forward for finalizing the programme of work for 2019–2021.

Contents

		Page
I.	Rationale, structure and objectives of the programme of work	4
	A. Background	4
	B. Relevance to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global and regional commitments	4
	C. Objective and structure of the programme of work	5
II.	Bodies to implement the programme of work for 2019–2021	8
	A. Bureau	8
	B. Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment	9
	C. Implementation Committee	10
	D. Legal Board	10
	E. Task Force on Water and Climate and global network of basins working on adaptation to climate change	10
	F. Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus	10
	G. International Water Assessment Centre	10
	H. Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents	11
III.	Areas of work and activities	11
	A. Programme area 1: Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation	11
	B. Programme area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins	14
	C. Programme area 3: Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels	16
	D. Programme area 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins	19
	E. Programme area 5: Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation	21
	F. Programme area 6: Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention	22
	G. Programme area 7: Partnerships, communication and knowledge management	24
IV.	Overview of resource requirements	25

Figure

Logic and structure of the programme of work 7

Table

Overview of resource requirements for 2019–2021 26

I. Rationale, structure and objectives of the programme of work

A. Background

1. Transboundary river and lake basins account for nearly half of the earth's land surface and generate roughly 60 per cent of global freshwater flow. Forty per cent of the world's population live in shared basins. More than 600 aquifers are shared. These shared waters create environmental, social, economic and political interdependencies.

2. Transboundary waters in many areas of the world are not used sustainably and the situation is projected to aggravate in the coming decades owing to increasing pressures from population growth, agriculture and energy production as well as from the impacts of climate change.

3. Transboundary water cooperation is therefore increasingly vital to prevent conflicts and ensure effective and sustainable management of shared resources. However, as also demonstrated by the report on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and the first report on the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) (forthcoming), cooperation in many transboundary basins is not adequate to tackle the existing and emerging challenges.

4. The Water Convention provides a key legal and intergovernmental framework for promoting transboundary water cooperation, the sustainable management of shared water resources, stability and peace.

5. Over the past 25 years, the Convention has proven its effectiveness. It has fostered the development of agreements, the establishment of joint institutions and the strengthening of cooperation at both the political and technical levels in the pan-European region. It has also strengthened national water governance and regional integration.

6. On 1 March 2016, the Convention, for which the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) provides the secretariat, became available for accession by all United Nations Member States. On 23 May 2018, Chad became the first country from outside the pan-European region to accede to the Convention. This programme of work is thus the first serving a global Convention.

B. Relevance to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global and regional commitments

7. The Water Convention is a powerful tool to promote and operationalize the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and its Sustainable Development Goals. It directly supports implementation of target 6.5, which requests all countries to implement integrated water resources management, including through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate. Moreover, as the ECE secretariat of the Convention together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have been designated as custodian agencies for global indicator 6.5.2, which measures the progress in transboundary water cooperation worldwide, and as the reporting on indicator 6.5.2 is closely linked with the reporting under the Convention, the Convention offers a framework to track global progress on transboundary water cooperation, discuss common challenges and define responses.

8. The Convention and its programme of work are also relevant for other Sustainable Development Goals and targets, such as all the other targets of goal 6 (clean water and sanitation), but also: goals 2 (zero hunger), 7 (affordable and clean energy) and 15 (life on land) through, for instance, the work on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus; goal 3 (good health and well-being), through activities in cooperation with the Protocol on Water and Health; target 11.5 (reducing the impact of disasters, in particular water-related disasters) and goal 13 (climate action), through activities on water and climate; and in general for goals 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (partnerships for the goals).

9. Moreover, the programme of work will support implementation of:

(a) The Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),[1] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda[2] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;[3]

(b) The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, 20–22 June 2012), "The future we want";[4]

(c) Regional commitments on water, such as the outcomes of the Environment for Europe ministerial conferences,[5] the European Union Council Conclusions on European Union water diplomacy[6] and the African Water Vision 2025;[7]

(d) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets[8], the fourth strategic plan 2016-2024 of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat[9] (Ramsar Convention) and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030[10].

C. Objective and structure of the programme of work

10. The main aim of the programme of work is to support implementation of the Convention and its principles. It operationalizes the vision for the future of the Convention adopted at the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (see ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2) and the draft strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level to be adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its eighth session (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/4-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/4).

11. Consistent with the draft strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level, the overall objective of the programme of work is that transboundary waters

[1] FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[2] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.
[3] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.
[4] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.
[5] See http://www.unece.org/env/efe/welcome.html.
[6] See http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/138253.pdf.
[7] Economic Commission for Africa, African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, *Africa Water Vision for 2025: Equitable and Sustainable Use of Water for Socioeconomic Development* (Addis Ababa, ECA, 2003). Available from http://hdl.handle.net/10855/5488 (https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/african%20water%20vision%202025%20to%20be%20sent%20to%20ww15).
[8] See https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268.
[9] https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf.
[10] https://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents/un-strategic-plan-for-forests-2030/index.html.

worldwide are managed in cooperation between riparian countries to promote sustainable development, peace and security.

12. Following a logical framework approach, activities in the programme of work are organized in programme areas that represent key results for successful transboundary cooperation. The programme areas in turn sustain specific outcomes that contribute to the overall objective of the programme of work (and ultimately of the Convention) (see figure).

Figure

Logic and structure of the programme of work

Overall objective: Transboundary waters worldwide are managed in cooperation between riparian countries in accordance with the Water Convention, promoting sustainable development, peace and security
Outcome 1
Countries understand the Convention, accede to it, develop agreements and establish joint bodies
Outcome 2
Transboundary water resources in transboundary basins are monitored and assessed, and information is shared among riparian countries
Outcome 3
Integrated water resources management is implemented at all levels in a changing climate
Outcome 4
Transboundary water cooperation is sustainably financed
Outcome 5
Transboundary water cooperation is monitored and partners are mobilized to support it
Programme Area 1
Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation
Programme Area 2
Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins
Programme Area 3
Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels
Programme Area 4
Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins
Programme Area 5
Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation
Programme Area 6
Reporting on SDG indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention
Programme Area 7
Partnerships, communication and knowledge management

ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/3
ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/3

13. The programme of work is organized in seven programme areas:

(a) Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation;

(b) Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins;

(c) Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels;

(d) Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins;

(e) Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation;

(f) Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention;

(g) Partnerships, communication and knowledge management.

14. The programme areas are closely interlinked. For instance, work on monitoring and assessment is linked to all other programme areas: it supports the development of agreements, lays the basis for integrated water resources management and adapting to climate change and allows linking reporting under the Convention and on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 to the impacts of cooperation and the status of water resources. Financing is also a basic requirement for all activities.

15. Considering the long-term nature of the work under the Convention, within this structure, in the successive triennial programmes of work, the relative importance of the different programme areas will vary to respond to different stages of the Convention's evolution and the needs of Parties and non-Parties from different regions of the world.

16. As in the past, the types of activities in the programme of work include a combination of guidance development, exchange of experience and capacity-building, political advocacy, monitoring and assessments, and projects on the ground, with the aim to foster progress at both the policy and technical levels, from the national and basin levels to the global level.

II. Bodies to implement the programme of work for 2019–2021

A. Bureau

17. In accordance with the rules of procedure for meetings of the Parties, the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties is composed of not fewer than eight persons, including the Chair and the two Vice-Chairs of the Meeting of the Parties, the Chairs of the working groups and, if applicable, other officers elected by the Meeting of the Parties (see ECE/MP.WAT/19/Add.1).

18. The main responsibilities of the Bureau include: (a) making arrangements to further develop and specify the programme of work, adapting it to changing circumstances and avoiding, to the extent possible, duplication of efforts with water-related activities of other United Nations bodies and other international organizations; (b) taking initiatives to strengthen implementation of the Convention; and (c) carrying out other tasks entrusted to it by the Meeting of the Parties.

B. Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment

19. The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment are the two main subsidiary bodies established by the Meeting of the Parties.

20. The two Working Groups are responsible for the implementation of the relevant activities under the various programme areas of the programme of work. They examine experience and draw up draft recommendations, codes of practice and other soft-law instruments. They also review policies, strategies and methodologies of relevance to the protection and use of waters and examine the implications of such policies, strategies and methodologies. The Working Groups also assist the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, if applicable, in developing response measures and in promoting the harmonization of rules and regulations on specific areas.

21. In between sessions of the Meetings of the Parties, the two working groups provide guidance regarding the implementation of the programme of work. They may advise the Bureau to make arrangements to further develop the programme of work, to adapt it to changing circumstances and to avoid, to the extent possible, duplication of efforts with water-related activities of other United Nations bodies and other international organizations.

22. The working groups also take initiatives to strengthen the application of the Convention, including the preparation of draft decisions, proposals and recommendations, and a draft programme of work for consideration by the Meeting of the Parties. They also mobilize resources to support the implementation of the programme of work.

23. Each working group may formulate recommendations related to the work of the other working group.

24. The focus of the work of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management is on intersectoral activities to support the implementation of the Convention with regard to the integrated management of transboundary water resources (surface waters and groundwaters). Activities under this Working Group aim to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impacts, as defined in the Convention; to promote the ecosystem approach in the framework of integrated water resources management; to promote equitable and reasonable utilization of transboundary waters; and to ensure conservation and, where necessary, restoration of water-related ecosystems. Further goals are to advance adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context, including flood and drought management; to promote understanding of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and the reconciliation of multiple water uses in transboundary basins; to advance the understanding of the benefits of transboundary cooperation; to prevent accidental water pollution; and to facilitate the financing of transboundary water cooperation and reporting under the Convention and on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2. The Working Group also seeks to build and strengthen the institutions responsible for the management of transboundary waters, to facilitate the work of joint bodies and to promote access to information and public participation in decision-making. In the 2019–2021 triennium, the Working Group will be co-chaired by Finland (to be confirmed (tbc)) and Germany (tbc).

25. The Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment aims to assist countries in establishing and implementing joint programmes for monitoring and assessing the pressures on and the conditions of those transboundary waters, including floods and ice drifts, as well as transboundary impacts. Furthermore, this Working Group has a leading role in the preparation of periodic assessments of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters, which

allows for measuring progress in the implementation of the Water Convention. The Working Group also seeks to promote the exchange of data on transboundary waters, to encourage Parties to inform each other about any critical situation that may have a transboundary impact and to make available to the public information on transboundary waters. The Working Group will be co-chaired by Finland and Senegal (tbc).

Resource requirements[11] *for meetings of the Bureau and the two working groups*: $903,600.

C. Implementation Committee

26. In accordance with decision VI/1 of the Meeting of the Parties on support to implementation and compliance (see ECE/MP.WAT/37/Add.2), the Implementation Committee facilitates, promotes and safeguards the implementation and application of and compliance with the Convention. It carries out the functions assigned to it in decision VI/1 or by the Meeting of the Parties at its subsequent sessions and reports to the Meeting of the Parties accordingly.

D. Legal Board

27. The Legal Board deals with legal questions related to the work under the Convention, upon the request of other Convention bodies. In the triennium 2019–2021, no activity is under the direct responsibility of the Legal Board; thus, it will only meet if the need arises.

E. Task Force on Water and Climate and global network of basins working on adaptation to climate change

28. The Task Force on Water and Climate, with the Netherlands and Switzerland as the lead Parties, is responsible for activities related to adaptation to climate change, including flood and drought management.

29. The global network of basins working on climate change adaptation promotes exchange of experience and cross-fertilization between the basins in the network.

F. Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus

30. The Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus, with Finland as the lead Party, is responsible for activities related to the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus and water allocation.

G. International Water Assessment Centre

31. The International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC) is the Convention's collaborative centre. The Centre is currently hosted by Kazakhstan. In accordance with its terms of reference (ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2017/4), the overall objective of IWAC is to

[11] The estimated costs shown here are limited to those intended to be covered by voluntary contributions, either through the Convention's trust fund or in kind. They do not include costs that are expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget or other sources. Overhead costs are not included.

support implementation of the Convention and, as relevant, its Protocol on Water and Health, and their programmes of work. The programme of work of IWAC is developed in consultation between the Government of Kazakhstan, the Bureau and the secretariat.

H. Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

32. The Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (Joint Expert Group) was established under the Water Convention and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention) to support work in the area of accidental water pollution.

33. The work of the Joint Expert Group is regulated by its strategy adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its fifth session (see ECE/MP.WAT/29/Add.2). The Joint Expert Group is currently co-led by Germany and Hungary.

III. Areas of work and activities

A. Programme area 1: Increasing awareness of and accession to the Convention and application of its principles drawing on the benefits of cooperation

Responsible bodies: The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, national focal points, the Bureau and the secretariat.

Rationale: Since the global opening of the Convention, an increasing number of countries have started national processes of accession and requested support. However, in many countries, the Convention is still not known enough, at both the technical and political levels. For the global opening to become effective, accession of riparian countries needs to be scaled up together with the implementation of the Convention's principles. It is particularly important to support the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies. To this end, it is important to enhance understanding of the benefits of transboundary water cooperation.

Objectives: Foster the application of the principles of the Water Convention and the improvement of cooperation on the management of transboundary waters by:

(a) Increasing awareness of and political support for the Convention and to transboundary water cooperation;

(b) Increasing accession to the Convention, and as appropriate to the Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (Watercourses Convention), promoting synergies between the two conventions;

(c) Highlighting the broad range of benefits that can be generated by cooperation and cooperative solutions;

(d) Supporting hydrodiplomacy through the Convention and its tools;

(e) Contributing to trust building and transboundary dialogues on the management of transboundary waters;

(f) Supporting countries in developing or revising agreements or arrangements in transboundary basins;

(g) Facilitating and strengthening implementation of the Convention through the Implementation Committee.

1.1 Increasing capacity for implementation of the Convention and supporting national processes towards accession

Lead Parties: Hungary, France Finland, Germany and the Netherlands.

1.1.1 Raising awareness and knowledge of the Convention

Focal points, the Bureau and the secretariat will promote the Convention, its activities and the guidelines developed under it on relevant occasions, including through the organization of presentations, sessions and/or side events at global and regional meetings, such as the World Water Forum, the World Water Week, the Africa Water Week and the Asia-Pacific Water Forum.

Focal points, the Bureau and the secretariat will also contribute to international water law trainings organized by partners such as the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and academia.

The Convention will be promoted in cooperation and by strengthening synergies with activities of other regional and global partners. Cooperation arrangements will be developed with such partners, as appropriate

Two trainings of practitioners will be organized to strengthen the capacity of key water experts involved in transboundary water cooperation and equip them with the knowledge and skills required to promote and apply the Convention. Such trainings will lead to the creation of a network of Convention experts and practitioners who will act as multipliers in promoting the Convention.

In all the above-mentioned activities, where appropriate, the Water Convention will be promoted together with the Watercourses Convention.

1.1.2 Supporting accession

Upon request, support will be provided to countries to accede to the Convention. Such support will include the provision of legal and technical advice to understand the Convention's provisions. In addition, national tailor-made workshops will be organized to build capacity on the Convention and its implementation, and to discuss the benefits of accession and the following steps.

Exchange of experience will be fostered to benefit from good practices worldwide, in particular through twinning between countries working on accession and countries having recently acceded or older Parties.

In addition, regional, subregional and basin events on the Convention will be organized in Africa, Asia and Latin America to prompt basin or regional dynamics towards accession to the Convention.

Specific guidance material addressing common and specific issues related to the accession and implementation of the Convention will be produced. This will include the development of a short publication containing answers to frequently asked questions on the Convention and its accession process, with examples on the process of accession from recent Parties. This will also include other communication material to support accession.

Additional activities in this area are included in the draft strategy for the implementation of the Convention at the global level.

Resource requirements for 1.1: $1,650,000.

1.2 Promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation

Lead Party: Estonia.

The *Policy Guidance Note on the Benefits of Transboundary Water Cooperation: Identification, Assessment and Communication* (ECE/MP.WAT/47) (Policy Guidance Note) will be applied in interested basin(s) to guide demonstration or pilot project(s) on the assessment and communication of the benefits of transboundary water cooperation, for example to prompt cooperation for the sustainable management of transboundary waters between Iran and Azerbaijan, Iran and Afghanistan, or Colombia and Peru.

Building on the analysis of case studies of successful transboundary water cooperation, a brief for policymakers on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation will be developed, highlighting good practice examples. The publication will be translated into all United Nations languages and printed.

Finally, activities on the benefits of transboundary water cooperation will be mainstreamed through their integration into other thematic activities, for example promoting the benefits of cooperation while promoting accession to the Water Convention (activity 1.1) and supporting the development of agreements (activity 1.3), highlighting the benefits of cooperative solutions identified by applying the Nexus approach (activity 3.1) and while developing transboundary climate change adaptation strategies (activity 4.1).

Resource requirements for 1.2: $372,000.

1.3 Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies

Lead Parties: Azerbaijan (tbc), Hungary (tbc).

Work to be undertaken

In 2020, a global workshop will be organized to support countries in developing and revising transboundary water cooperation agreements and arrangements. Based on concrete examples, the workshop will review, among others, how to make use of international water law when developing agreements, how to consider the benefits of cooperation and effective negotiation practices. If relevant, as an outcome of the workshop, a checklist on developing agreements and good practices will be developed.

Two regional or basin workshops to strengthen negotiation skills will be organized.

Upon request from the concerned countries and pending the availability of resources, a number of basin-level projects supporting the development of agreements and strengthening of institutions will be implemented, including building on the benefits of cooperation. Possible basins for the implementation of such projects include the Kura, Pyanj, Neman, Bug, Dniester, Putumayo, Western Dvina/Daugava, Drin, Artibonite and Chu Talas. Activities will also include support to regional cooperation, such as work on dam safety and water quality in the Aral Sea basin, and support to regional economic communities in Africa, for instance to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), for the development of regional frameworks for water cooperation.

Resource requirements for 1.3: $248,000.

1.4 Implementation Committee

The work of the Implementation Committee will be ruled by decision VI/1 on support to implementation and compliance. Within its mandate, the Committee will support countries in their efforts to implement and comply with the Convention, including through the provision of advice. The Committee will promote the implementation mechanism and its

use by Parties and non-Parties through communication efforts and specific events. It will also support the secretariat in answering questions from countries interested in accession.

Resource requirements for 1.4: $207,000.

Possible partners for programme area 1: Academia (e.g., IHE Delft Institute for Water Education and Geneva University), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO), the Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors, existing joint bodies, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN) project, GWP and its regional water partnerships, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the International Water Management Institute, the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), IUCN, the League of Arab States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Organization of American States (OAS), regional economic communities (e.g., ECCAS, the Economic Community of West African States, IGAD and the Southern African Development Community), the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), UNESCO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations regional commissions, the World Bank and Zoï Environment Network.

B. Programme area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins

Responsible body: The Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.

Lead Parties: Finland and Senegal (tbc).

Rationale: Comparable information across a transboundary basin or aquifer is necessary to form a common basis for management and related decision-making. In practice, this requires harmonized and comparable methods for monitoring and assessment. This also requires information exchange and shared information systems, including appropriate data management and uniform procedures. Joint monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters and information exchange are among the key obligations under the Convention. Initiating information exchange is fundamental for developing cooperation but still proves challenging. The guidance developed under the Convention (including the *Strategies for Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters*;[12] the *Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary and International Lakes — Part A: Strategy Document*;[13] the *Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary and International Lakes — Part B: Technical Guidelines*;[14] *Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers*;[15] and the *Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Groundwaters*[16]) promotes a step-by-step approach.

[12] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.II.E.15. Available from https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=11683.

[13] ECE Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (2002), available from http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=20166.

[14] ECE Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (2003), available from http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=20166.

[15] ECE Task Force on Monitoring and Assessment, *Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers. First Review of the 1996 Guidelines on Water-quality Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Work Programme 1997–2000* (March 2000). Available from http://www.iwacportal.org/?page=8.

[16] ECE Task Force on Monitoring and Assessment, *Guidelines on Monitoring and Assessment of Transboundary Groundwaters. First Review of the 1996 Guidelines on Water-quality Monitoring and*

facilitating progressive improvement, as well as linking the definition of information needs to water management issues. However, significant challenges remain in the areas of monitoring, assessment and data exchange.

Objectives: Support countries in initiating or further developing joint or coordinated monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters, covering both water quantity and quality aspects, and ensure exchange of information between riparian countries.

2.1 Organization of a global workshop on information exchange and regional events on monitoring and assessment

A global workshop on data and information exchange will be organized in cooperation with partners in order to review relevant experiences, discuss good practices and develop recommendations on the exchange of information on transboundary basins and aquifers, taking into account, among others, new information technologies. The discussions at the workshop will be supported by a substantive background paper.

In addition, two regional capacity-building events on monitoring and assessment of transboundary waters tailored to specific regional needs will be organized, possibly in the framework of regional events under programme area 1.

Resource requirements for 2.1: $224,000.

2.2 Tailored assistance and gathering experience for updating guidance material under the Convention

Upon request, targeted assistance will be provided to cooperation processes on monitoring and assessment. This could include studies, or expert support according to the countries' and the negotiation processes' needs (e.g., analysis of water uses, assessment and comparison of national or joint monitoring systems, or harmonization of the classification of waters).

In addition, assistance and support for developing joint or coordinated monitoring will be facilitated by promoting exchanges between countries or basin organizations at an early stage of cooperation with Parties or river basin organizations at a more advanced stage.

The different thematic and basin-level activities (e.g., the Drin GEF project where an information management system is developed) will be used to collect information on common challenges and needs, together with shortcomings of the existing monitoring guidance under the Convention to inform its possible future review. The updating needs are anticipated to include recent technological development in monitoring (passive sensors, application of remote sensing, citizen science, etc.).

Resource requirements for 2.2: $198,000.

Possible partners for programme area 2: the European Environment Agency, GEF, the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre, UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations regional economic commissions, UN-Water and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Work Programme 1997–2000 (March 2000). Available from http://www.riwacportal.org/?page=8.

C. Programme area 3: Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to water management at all levels

Responsible bodies: The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus for activities 3.2 and 3.3.

Rationale: Integrated water resources management is a universally recognized best practice, which involves coordination among different uses and users of water from different sectors to maximize economic and social benefits without causing damage to the sustainability of ecosystems. This integration involves, among others, the conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater resources and consideration of water quantity and quality aspects.

Sustainable water management lies at the core of the Convention. The adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 6, and specifically its target 6.5 that integrated water resources management be implemented at all levels, underlines the importance of further promoting this approach and balancing different water sector needs and environmental requirements. Good practices in water allocation can be helpful to that end. By building on an improved understanding about the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus in transboundary basins and by considering intersectoral impacts from policies and other sectoral developments beyond water management, more sustainable and collaborative ways of development can be found. This makes it possible to identify broad cooperation opportunities that can provide benefits through reduced impacts and trade-offs also at the basin level.

Objectives:

(a) Support the development of transboundary basin management strategies, joint objectives or plans (or elements for such plans), in line with the Convention and the principles of integrated water resources management;

(b) Support conjunctive management of surface waters and groundwaters;

(c) Support intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach to foster transboundary cooperation, reduce negative intersectoral impacts and strengthen beneficial synergies;

(d) Support the development of equitable and sustainable transboundary arrangements on water allocation, and, to this end, increase understanding and knowledge of the criteria, mechanisms, tools and good practices for water allocation in transboundary basins and aquifers;

(e) Strengthen water governance and the application of integrated water resources management, in particular intersectoral cooperation, through National Policy Dialogues in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

3.1 Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins

Thematic sessions on different aspects of integrated water resources management will be organized during meetings of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management. These will focus, for example, on transboundary basin management plan development, jointly managing transboundary aquifers, the creation of basin councils, public participation in transboundary basins and other relevant topics.

Resource requriements for 3.1: $60,000.

3.2 Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach

Lead Party: Finland.

3.2.1 Sharing of experience and disseminating results from nexus assessments

The synthesis document (or updated version of the participatory nexus assessment methodology) being prepared for the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to summarize the experience from nexus assessments carried out in selected transboundary basins from 2013 onwards will be published.

Results of the nexus assessments will be disseminated to support their use in the basin-sharing countries and uptake in regional processes. Experience with the application of the methodology will be shared. Advocacy in processes related to the 2030 Agenda will be carried out, including to inform specific sectoral processes.

Projects funded by GEF will be supported in assessing and addressing nexus issues through the preparation of a brief in the framework of the secretariat's programmatic support to the IW:LEARN project on the nexus in 2017–2019.

One meeting of the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus will review the progress of activities in programme area 3.2 and guide further work. The Task Force will also provide a platform for discussing the water allocation manual (see activity 3.3).

3.2.2 Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the Nexus approach

The ongoing or already foreseen nexus basin assessments will be completed in the North-West Sahara Aquifer System and in two transboundary river basins in the Western Balkans. Advice will be provided to the nexus dialogue in the Niger basin. Finally, a follow-up project on the Drina River basin will be implemented focusing on selected issues from the nexus assessment carried out in 2016–17.

3.2.3 Promoting sustainability, transboundary cooperation between basin countries and early consideration of water resources and dependent ecosystems in investments

A checklist or a resource document about taking water and environment related trade-offs and synergies into account in developing renewable energy, including transboundary considerations, will be developed in cooperation with the ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, subject to the Group's confirmation. This will build on joint work, including the policy document *Deployment of Renewable Energy: The Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus Approach to Support the Sustainable Development Goals* (ECE/MP.WAT/NONE/7)[17] as well as the series of renewable energy investment talks in the Drina countries.

Resource requirements for 3.2: $579,000.

3.3 Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context

Lead Party: Hungary.

[17] Available from https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46026.

3.3.1 Development of a manual on water allocation in the transboundary context

A manual based on existing practices will be developed covering the key aspects of equitable and sustainable allocation of water in the transboundary context, adressing both surface waters and groundwaters, and also environmental flows. Work will be started with a global review of water allocation arrangements in transboundary basins. The publication will include references to relevant tools and information resources and examples of: (a) the prerequisites (e.g., institutional framework, data sharing) for agreeing on water allocations; (b) options and approaches that can be followed technically and legally; (b) relevant considerations in designing a process to agree on water allocation; and (c) the benefits that can be drawn from agreeing on water allocation. The experience in implementing existing allocation arrangements will be taken into account. The development of the manual will be supported by a drafting group which will meet twice. The manual will be translated into French, Russian and Spanish and published.

3.3.2 Organization of regional workshops on water allocation

Two regional workshops on water allocation will be be organized.

Resource requirements for 3.3: $579,000.

3.4 Supporting National Policy Dialogues on integrated water resources management under the European Union Water Initiative

Lead Party organizations: The secretariat, in cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Romania and the European Commission.

Within the framework of the European Union Water Initiative Plus programme (EUWI+) for the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), the National Policy Dialogues will continue to support implementation of integrated water resources management at the national, transboundary and regional levels. Work will focus on the improvement of the legal, regulatory, administrative, technical and economic frameworks of water management. The activities will assist countries in achieving the water-related Sustainable Development Goals, as well as setting and implementing targets and target dates on sustainable water management, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. In countries with a European Union Association Agreement, or with other types of cooperation agreements with the European Union, the transposition of the respective European Union water legislation will be supported. Continuation of National Policy Dialogues and related activities in the countries of Central Asia will depend on the availability of funds.

National steering committees that include stakeholders of key importance to integrated water resources management will continue to lead the country-specific dialogue processes. The outputs of the dialogues will include policy packages, such as new legislative acts, ministerial orders, development strategies and background studies, as well as pilot projects for further replication.

Exchange of experience between countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and with other regions of the world will be promoted through regional meetings and by using the regional and global events under the auspices of the Convention. Such events will also serve as capacity development opportunities for water specialists from target countries.

Work under the National Policy Dialogues will be closely coordinated, will provide inputs to and will benefit from activities under programme area 3 and all the other programme

areas. In addition, it will contribute to country-level implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health and other relevant ECE conventions.

Resource requirements for 3.4: $2,676,000.

Possible partners for programme area 3: the Asian Development bank (ADB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Commission, the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, existing joint bodies, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), GWP, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, INBO, the International Sava River Basin Commission, IUCN, the Niger Basin Authority, OECD, Oregon State University, OSCE, regional economic commissions, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, the World Health Organization, the Royal Institute of Technology, the Sahara and Sahel Observatory, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO and United Nations University Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources.

D. Programme area 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins

Responsible bodies: The Task Force on Water and Climate and the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

Lead Parties: The Netherlands and Switzerland.

Rationale: Climate change impacts on water resources are likely to intensify, for example through an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events (floods and droughts), which can seriously affect water quantity, quality and ecosystems, and thereby impact water-dependent sectors. Many transboundary basins are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Transboundary water cooperation on climate change adaptation is not only useful to prevent the negative impacts of unilateral adaptation measures but can also make adaptation more effective and efficient. Since 2006, the Task Force on Water and Climate has been supporting countries sharing transboundary waters in adapting to climate change through the provision of guidance, capacity-building, projects on the ground and the exchange of experience.

Over the years, the support has progressed thematically from vulnerability assessments to more advanced stages of adaptation, such as facilitating funding of transboundary adaptation measures. In fact, raising funds for implementing climate change adaptation measures is a priority in many basins where adaptation strategies have been developed. However, joint bodies struggle to find funds owing to a lack of capacity and since most climate change funding is nationally oriented and not available for transboundary basins.

Work in this programme areas is guided by the Strategy for future work on climate change adaptation in transboundary basins under the Convention (ECE/MP.WAT/2015/4).

Objectives:

(a) Increase adaptive capacity and improve cooperation in climate change adaptation and mitigation in transboundary basins;

(b) Increase funding for basin-wide or coordinated climate change adaptation measures in transboundary basins by facilitating access to climate funds and building related capacity;

(c) Increase awareness of the importance of water and transboundary cooperation in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction at the national and

transboundary levels and in intergovernmental global processes, such as UNFCCC, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the 2030 Agenda.

4.1 Supporting development of transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority measures

4.1.1 Projects on climate change adaptation in selected transboundary basins: from vulnerability assessments to implementation of joint strategies

Cooperation in transboundary basins will be promoted in the development of vulnerability assessments, adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies, and the prioritization of mutually beneficial adaptation measures and their implementation through a limited number of projects on the ground, implemented with partners. In this regard, some ongoing pilot projects (such as those for the Dniester, Chu-Talas, Neman and Sava River basins) will continue activities to develop and implement their adaptation strategies. In addition, pending the availability of project resources, up to two new pilot projects will be implemented, for example in the Congo, the Pripyat or the Senegal river basins.

4.1.2 Exchange of experience through workshops and the global network of basins working on climate change

Experience, good practices and lessons learned will be exchanged through the existing global network of basins working on climate change adaptation, coordinated in cooperation with INBO. Activities will include organizing network meetings, twinning, virtual exchange of experience, study visits or smaller thematic and regional events.

Two global workshops on transboundary climate change adaptation will be organized in 2019 and 2020. The thematic focus of such workshop might include, for example, climate change, water and disaster risk reduction, water scarcity, or the development of transboundary adaptation strategies.

4.1.3 Contribution to global policy processes on water, climate and disasters

The importance of water and transboundary cooperation in adaptation will be promoted within global policy processes, such as under UNFCCC, UNISDR, or in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, by, among others, providing inputs or organizing side events at major conferences together with partners (e.g., sessions or thematic action days of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, Adaptation Committee, etc.). Direct inputs into the work on water and adaptation under UNFCCC might be provided upon the request of the UNFCCC secretariat or other relevant bodies and mechanisms.

Mainstreaming of water and transboundary cooperation in national and basin planning documents will be promoted, for instance under the UNFCCC nationally determined contributions. Integration of climate change-related issues into international projects funded by GEF will be supported in the framework of IW:LEARN.

The "Words into Action" implementation guide for addressing water-related disasters and transboundary water cooperation to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, prepared in 2017–2018 with UNISDR, will be finalized, printed, translated into French, Russian and Spanish and disseminated.

Resource requirements for 4.1: $1,070,000.

4.2 Supporting transboundary basins in financing climate change adaptation

The publication "Preparing bankable projects for financing climate change adaptation in transboundary basins", prepared as an outcome of a training on this topic organized in June 2017 in Dakar in cooperation with AfDB, the European Investment Bank (EIB), INBO, the Netherlands and Switzerland, will be finalized, translated into French, Russian and Spanish, printed and disseminated.

Trainings on preparing bankable project proposals for climate change adaptation in transboundary basins will be organized together with multilateral development banks. This will include at least one training at the regional level (e.g., for Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia or for Asia), and one or more trainings at the basin level (e.g., for the Drin or Congo rivers or Lake Chad).

A limited number of basin organizations will receive direct support in developing bankable projects proposals, in cooperation with partners, such as through the Water and Climate Incubation Platform (implemented by INBO).

Finally, cooperation will be intensified with global climate funds, such as the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, to raise the importance of water and transboundary cooperation for climate funding mechanisms.

Resource requirements for 4.2: $737,000.

Possible partners for programme area 4: the Adaptation Fund, ADB, AfDB, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation, the European Commission, EIB, the Green Climate Fund, GEF, IWLEARN, GIZ, GWP, the Green Climate Fund, INBO, the International Commission for the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin, the International Sava River Basin Commission, IUCN, OSCE, SIWI, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNISDR, the World Bank, WMO, the World Water Council, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and joint bodies.

E. Programme area 5: Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation

Responsible body: The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

Lead Party: Switzerland.

Rationale: The different stages of transboundary cooperation (developing agreements, setting up joint bodies and the implementation of measures and investments) require funding. Funding needs and funding sources depend on the scope, mandate, objectives and ambition of the transboundary cooperation arrangement. However, the lack of sustainable funding models often prevents countries from deepening their cooperation. Many basin organizations, even in developed countries, struggle to ensure long-term sustainability of their work. Development partners have over the years invested significant amounts in supporting transboundary water cooperation, but they often face a challenge in disengaging from basins that they have supported while leaving behind financially sustainable structures. In fact, many countries face difficulties in financing transboundary water cooperation from national sources, among others since the benefits of transboundary cooperation are not always known and many funding sources, both national and international, are primarily targeted to national and local water projects. In addition, knowledge is lacking on available funding sources and application procedures.

Sustainable financing models for joint bodies and cooperation processes are therefore crucial. Exchanging good practices can make it possible to identify new, unknown funding

sources, analyse success factors, draw lessons learned and share sustainable financing models.

Objectives

(a) Draw global attention to the importance of financing transboundary water cooperation and raise awareness on the importance of enhancing the financial sustainability of transboundary water management institutions and implementation programmes;

(b) Facilitate knowledge sharing and peer learning (among national authorities, joint bodies and development partners) on funding options to enhance the sustainability of transboundary water management;

(c) Support national authorities and joint bodies in securing financing for transboundary water cooperation from different sources, including national budgets;

(d) Promote the development of joint investment plans and financing strategies in transboundary basins.

Work to be undertaken

One global workshop on financing transboundary water cooperation from all types of sources will be organized in 2020. The workshop will review different sources of funding (e.g., national funds, revenue from joint infrastructure, water fees, external donor funding from bilateral and multilateral sources and innovative financial tools). Cooperation will be sought with ministries of finance and relevant financial institutions (banks, bilateral donors, etc.). A background paper will be prepared for the workshop and, if appropriate, finalized after the workshop, translated into French, Russian and Spanish and published.

Efforts will be made to further increase cooperation with financial institutions such as ADB, AfDB, EIB, GEF and the World Bank.

In particular, the cooperation with GEF will be further strengthened pursuant to decision VI/4. The Convention will continue to cooperate with and contribute to the GEF IW:LEARN project and the secretariat, together with partners, will be involved in the implementation of GEF-funded projects.

Possible partners: ADB, AfDB, EIB, GEF, the World Bank, other banks and financing institutions, bilateral development agencies and joint bodies.

Resource requirements for programme area 5: $228,000.

F. Programme area 6: Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

Responsible body: The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management and the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment.

Lead organization: The secretariat in cooperation with UNESCO.

Rationale: In 2015, a regular reporting mechanism was introduced under the Convention to review and enhance implementation of the Convention and identify needs and gaps in transboundary cooperation. The introduction of the reporting under the Convention coincided with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets. Target 6.5 calls for countries to implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate. To measure progress on transboundary water cooperation, indicator 6.5.2 was agreed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2016 and subsequently adopted in July 2017 by the

General Assembly as part of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals. ECE and UNESCO have led the development of the step-by-step methodology to calculate indicator 6.5.2 and have been designated as "custodian agencies" for the indicator.

To maximize synergies and efficiencies, the reporting under the Convention and the reporting on indicator 6.5.2 were coupled and Parties received one template. Similarly, all other countries in the world sharing transboundary waters were invited to report on indicator 6.5.2 through a questionnaire which, in addition to a section on the calculation of the indicator, includes three other sections based on the Convention's reporting template. This makes it possible to outline a complete picture of the situation concerning transboundary water cooperation, track progress more closely beyond the indicator value and better describe the current baseline.

The first reporting cycle in 2017–2018 on indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention has shown the numerous benefits of reporting, such as improved national cooperation between water actors, enhanced political attention to cooperation, exchange of experience and identification of gaps. It has also highlighted the many opportunities from using the results of reporting to enhance transboundary cooperation. However, it also revealed challenges and difficulties encountered in reporting.

Objectives

(a) Raise awareness on the importance of reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention and the derived benefits;

(b) Strengthen the capacity to report and enhance the quality and impact of reports;

(c) Keep under review progress on transboundary water cooperation worldwide and in implementing the Convention, and contribute to the follow-up and review of Sustainable Development Goal target 6.5 and indicator 6.5.2;

(d) Facilitate gap analysis and evaluation through the use of reports at all levels, from the national to the basin and global levels.

6.1 Supporting reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention

In 2019, a guide on reporting under the Convention will be prepared by a drafting group, composed of Parties and non-Parties, and co-serviced by ECE and UNESCO. It will include an explanation of the terminology, instructions for filling out the different sections and advice on the process of preparation of the national report and its content. If possible, it will contain good practice examples. The guide will also support reporting on indicator 6.5.2.

In 2020–2021, the second reporting exercise under the Convention and on indicator 6.5.2 will be carried out, in cooperation with UNESCO. This will include official communications with all countries sharing transboundary waters, data collection and data validation, development of a database, analysis of the national reports and preparation of global reports on indicator 6.5.2 and on the implementation of the Convention. The results will be presented to the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties, the Ninth World Water Forum in Senegal, and the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

The capacity of countries to report will be strengthened through trainings and exchange of experiences in the framework of other Convention activities, in particular during the fifteenth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management.

In addition, a proposal for an online reporting system and online database under the Convention will be developed, taking into account other existing systems, the UN-Water data portal and lessons learned from other multilateral environmental agreements.

All these efforts will be closely coordinated within the UN-Water Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6.

Resource requirements for 6.1: $650,000.

6.2 Promoting the use of the reports for identifying and addressing gaps in transboundary water cooperation

Regular exchanges on the results of the first reporting exercise will be fostered in the framework of the activities under the Convention at all levels. Analysis of the gaps in transboundary water cooperation emerging from the reports and how to address them will be promoted. Experiences on how to use the reports to foster transboundary cooperation will be exchanged.

Resource requirements for 6.2: $45,000.

Possible partners: UNESCO, the United Nations Statistical Commission, the United Nations regional commissions, UN-Water and the agencies of the Integrated Monitoring Initiative, joint bodies.

G. Programme area 7: Partnerships, communication and knowledge management

Responsible bodies: The Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management, national focal points, the Bureau and the secretariat.

Rationale: Partners are key for the Convention's implementation and their role will be even more important with the globalization of the Convention. Communication, including through new channels, such as social media, and knowledge management are important cross-cutting activities for all the programme areas to improve understanding and implementation of the Convention and enhance the impacts of products and activities.

Objectives:

(a) To strengthen cooperation ad synergies with different partners at the global and regional levels, including cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements;

(b) To disseminate information on the Convention's activities and results through a broad range of communication tools;

(c) To strengthen delivery of programme outputs by advancing knowledge management.

7.1 Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements

Coordination and synergies will be sought with activities of other United Nations agencies and bodies, in particular through UN-Water, its Thematic Priority Area on Transboundary Waters, which is coordinated by ECE and UNESCO, and the UN-Water inputs to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Cooperation with the other United Nations regional commissions and other regional partners will be strengthened to support the promotion, application and implementation of the Convention outside the ECE region.

Continuous exchange of information with relevant multilateral environmental agreements will continue, including with other ECE environmental agreements and in particular the Protocol on Water and Health.

Resource requirements for 7.1: $55,000.

7.2 Activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

In 2019–2021, the Joint Expert Group will be mainly serviced by the secretariat of the Industrial Accidents Convention. It will implement the following activities:

(a) Disseminate, test and facilitate the application of the Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for the Management and Retention of Firefighting Water (see ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/8-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/8 and ECE/MP.WAT/WG.1/2018/9-ECE/MP.WAT/WG.2/2018/9);

(b) Support the implementation of safety guidelines and checklists in countries with economies in transition and interested countries beyond the ECE region and translate them as required (e.g., into French);

(c) Conduct transboundary response exercises.

Resource requirements for 7.2: $15,000.

6.3 Communication and knowledge management

Activities will include the production, publication and printing of information and communication materials (e.g., leaflets, brochures and booklets in the relevant United Nations languages) on the Convention, media work, interviews and press releases, and the regular revision and update of the Convention website. Social media channels will be used to build a support base and reach out to new constituencies. Regular information will be provided to stakeholders through the Convention's newsletter. Publications will be reprinted as needed (such as the *Guide to Implementing the Water Convention* (ECE/MP.WAT/39), the nexus assessment methodology, the *Model Provisions on Transboundary Groundwaters* (ECE/MP.WAT/40), benefits guidance, etc.).

Resource requirements for 7.3: $138,000.

Possible partners for programme area 7: AMCOW, ANBO, Ramsar Convention, the European Commission, FAO, GEF and its IW:LEARN project, Geneva Water Hub, Green Cross International, GWP, INBO, IUCN, OAS, OSCE, SIWI, regional commissions, UNEP, UNISDR, UN-Water, the World Water Council and WWF.

IV. Overview of resource requirements

34. The estimated costs shown in the table below are limited to those intended to be covered by voluntary contributions, either through the Convention's trust fund or in kind. They include the costs associated with the organization of the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties. They do not include costs that are expected to be covered by the United Nations regular budget or other sources. The estimate is mostly based on the experience with previous programmes of work and may vary according to the further definition of the activities during implementation, as well as according to United Nations administrative regulations.

35. The secretariat will continue to produce the agendas, reports and other documents of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention, the two working groups, the Legal Board and the Implementation Committee as official documents and to make them available in time for meetings in the three official languages of ECE, without recourse to additional extrabudgetary resources. In addition to the documents mandated elsewhere in the programme of work by decisions of the Meeting of the Parties or linked to the mandate of the bodies under the Convention, the following documents are foreseen, with possible additional documents being identified by the working groups or the Bureau, as necessary:

(a) Reports to the two working groups by the two task forces;

(b) Documents related to the International Water Assessment Centre;

(c) Documents related to the benefits of transboundary cooperation, monitoring and assessment, reporting, the nexus and water allocation, climate change adaptation, the opening of the Convention, promotion and partnerships, and financing transboundary water cooperation.

36. Interpretation in the three official languages of ECE will be provided from regular budget resources for meetings of the two working groups, the Legal Board, the Implementation Committee, the Task Force on Water and Climate, the global network of basins working on climate change adaptation and the Task Force on the Water-Food-Energy-Ecosystems Nexus, as well as for global and regional workshops organized in Geneva within the framework of the programme of work.

37. Where necessary, and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, translations and interpretation may be provided into other languages of the United Nations.

Table
Overview of resource requirements for 2019–2021

(in thousands of United States dollars)

No.	*Programme area or activity*	*Item*	*Resource requirements*
	Organization of meetings of the two working groups and the Bureau	Travel of eligible experts to meetings of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (3 meetings, 50 experts per meeting), the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment (2 meetings, 50 experts)[a] and the Bureau (4 meetings, 3 experts)	398.0
		General Service (G) staff (8 months)	72.0
		Professional (P) staff (P-3 level) (9 months)	135.0
	Organization of the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties, with some costs expected to be covered by the host country	Travel of experts and staff, reporting service, additional interpretation costs, etc.	333.60
		P-3 staff time (6 months)	90.0
		G staff time (4 months)	36.0
	Subtotal (meetings of Convention bodies)		**1 094.6**
1	**Increasing awareness of and accession to the Water Convention and application of its principles**		
1.1	Increasing capacity for implementation of the Conventions and supporting national processes towards accession	National,regional, subregional or basin-level workshops, sessions at the global and regional level, training of practitioners	760.0
		Consultancies	320.0

No.	Programme area or activity	Item	Resource requirements
		P-3-staff time (30 months)	450.0
		G staff time (10 months)	90.0
		Guidance or communication material	30.0
1.2	Promoting and communicating the benefits of transboundary cooperation	P-3 staff time (8 months)	120.0
		G staff time (3 months)	27.0
		Travel	55.0
		Pilot project (consultancy, grant, contractual services)	140.0
		Brief for policymakers on the benefits of cooperation	30.0
1.3	Supporting the development of agreements and the establishment of joint bodies	Project-driven activities, with resources provided by projects	—
		Organization of a global workshop on developing agreements and two regional or basin-level trainings on negotiations (travel and consultancies)	170.0
		P-3 staff time (4 months)	60.0
		G staff time (2 months)	18.0
1.4	Implementation Committee	Travel of eligible experts to meetings of the Committee (5 meetings, 9 experts per meeting)	90.0
		G staff time (3 months)	27.0
		P-3 staff time (6 months)	90.0
	Subtotal programme area 1		**2 447.0**
2	**Programme area 2: Supporting monitoring, assessment and information sharing in transboundary basins**		
2.1	Global workshop on information exchange and regional events on monitoring and assessment	Travel, consultancies and grants for local organization	165.0
		P-3 staff time (6 months)	90.0
		G staff time (2 months)	18.0
2.2	Tailored assistance and gathering experience for updating guidance material	Travel	54.0
		Consultancies	60.0
		P-3 staff time (5 months)	75.0
		G staff time (1 month)	9.0
	Subtotal programme area 2		**422.0**
3	**Programme area 3: Promoting an integrated and intersectoral approach to basin management at all levels**		
3.1	Promoting integrated water resources management in transboundary basins	P-3 staff time (2 months)	30.0
		Consultancy	30.0
3.2	Supporting intersectoral dialogues and assessments through the application of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus approach	Travel (basin assessments and Task Force meeting)	116.0
		P-3 staff time (18 months)	270.0
		G staff time (3 months)	27.0

No.	Programme area or activity	Item	Resource requirements
		Consultancies	166.0
3.3	Supporting equitable and sustainable water allocation in the transboundary context	P-3 staff time (14 months)	210.0
		G staff time (4 months)	36.0
		Travel (drafting group meetings and two regional workshops)	160.0
		Consultancy / development of the manual)	50.0
3.4	Supporting National Policy Dialogues on integrated water resources management under the European Union Water Initiative	P-3 staff time (36 months)	540.0
		P-4 staff time (36 months)	612.0
		G-staff time (30 months)	270.0
		Travel	354.0
		Consultancy	400.0
		Grants	500.0
	Subtotal programme area 3		**3 771.0**
4	**Programme area 4: Adapting to climate change in transboundary basins**		
4.1	Supporting development of transboundary adaptation strategies and implementation of priority measures	P-3 staff time (26 months)	390.0
		G staff time (10 months)	90.0
		Travel (two global workshops, network meetings, global advocacy events)	280.0
		Consultancies (for pilot projects)	150.0
		Grants	150.0
		Contractual services	10.0
4.2	Supporting transboundary basins in financing climate change adaptation	P-3 staff time (12 months)	180.0
		G staff time (3 months)	27.0
		Travel (two trainings)	120.0
		Consultancies	100.0
		Grant (on developing bankable project proposals)	300.0
		Contractual services	10.0
	Subtotal programme area 4		**1 807.0**
5	**Programme area 5: Facilitating financing of transboundary water cooperation**	P-3 staff time (4 months)	60.0
		G-staff (2 months)	18.0
		Travel (global workshop)	120.0
		Consultancy	30.0
	Subtotal programme area 5		**228.0**
6	**Programme area 6: Reporting on Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention**		

No.	Programme area or activity	Item	Resource requirements
6.1	Supporting reporting on indicator 6.5.2 and under the Convention	P-3 staff time (24 months)	360.0
		G staff time (5 months)	75.0
		Travel (drafting group guide)	40.0
		Consultancy	150.0
		Contractual services (production of guide on reporting)	25.0
6.2	Promoting the use of the reports for identifying and addressing gaps in transboundary water cooperation	P-3 staff time (3 months)	45.0
	Subtotal programme area 6		**710.0**
7	**Programme area 7: Partnerships, communication and knowledge management**		
7.1	Cooperation with UN-Water, global and regional partners and other multilateral environmental agreements	P-3 staff time (3 months)	45.0
		Travel	10.0
7.2	Activities of the Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents	P-3 staff time (1 month)	15.0
7.3	Communication and knowledge management	P-3 staff time (4 months)	60.0
		G staff time (2 months)	18.0
		Travel	10.0
		Consultancy	20.0
		Contractual services	30.0
	Subtotal programme area 7		**208.0**
	Subtotal (programme areas 1–7 and meetings of Convention bodies)		**10 702.6**
	Overhead (7–13%) (rounded)		**1 230.8**
	Total (rounded)		**11 933.4**

[a] One meeting of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment to be held back to back with the workshop on information exchange is costed under programme area 2.